CITY OF WASHINGTON, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1851.

ANNUALS, Souvenirs, and Illustrated Books for

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CONGRESSIONAL. DEFERRED DEBATE.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1551

lows:

Mr. RHETT. I thought the other day, when the sen-ator from Mississippi [Mr. Foots] came to speak of my opinions, that he had read my speech, as it so happens it is in print. I have it not here, but I have it at home.

saying that everything of a personal character is certainly out of order.

Mr. RHETT. I thought I was referring to a fact that everybody knew. But I have no disposition to go into that matter. So far as I am concerned, this, I believe, is about the first difficulty or altercation that I have ever had with anybody.

The senator says that what I said in conclusion of my speech in respect to Mr. Calhoun, and his having hurried him to his grave, "was a vile and calumnious charge." The Senate will casily perceive—

The PRESIDENT. The Chair was not aware that

The Senate will easily perceive—

The PRESIDENT. The Chair was not aware that the senator from Mississippi [Mr. Foots] made use of that remark as applying to the senator from South Carolina, [Mr. Rherr.]

Mr. RHETT. No. sir, I admit that, But he said that the above were wile and calumning one. the charge was a vile and calumnious one.

The PRESIDENT. If the Chair had thought that

The PRESIDENT. It the Chair had thought that anything personal was meant, he would have called the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. Foorn] to order. Mr. RHETT. He did not say that I had made a vile and calumnious charge, but that the assertion was a vile and calumnious one. When I said that he had hurried Mr. Calhoun into his grave, everybody understood that it was a metaphorical expression. What I meant the metaphor to express was this, that by his attack he had weakened Mr. Calhoun, and thus had hastened his decease. That is what I intended to say. And that I was not very wild in that expression is supported by what the senator himself says. He says himself that a rumor conveying this charge was in the papers and about the city, and that the honorable senator from Alabama [Mr. Cartered Person 1]. rumor. It is certain that I heard it in South Carolina, where I then was; and when I came here, two senators informed me of the same thing—one of them I will mention directly. And in addition to that, three gentlemen—I might say four—but I will say three gentlemen, who were living in the house with Mr. Calhoun at the time, and who are now members of the other House, distinctly declared to me the same thing. I can give their names if the senator wants them. They were here, saw Mr. Calhoun's condition, before and after; saw the effect the attack of the senator produced upon him; saw him on his sick bed; and they did not doubt, and they now say that they do not doubt, the effect of that strack upon his sick bed; and they did not doubt, and they now say that they do not doubt, the effect of that attack upon Mr. Calhoun was seriously to impair the then condition of his health, and hasten his death. Now, there is my authority for eaying so. I believe myself that every-body thinks so. I was not here at the time—I saw nothing of it, but I did not suppose that I was saying anything that anybody would controvert. Observe that I do not say the senator designed any such thing. But I thought that if he produced that effect, and was aware that he had produced it, he was the last man upon this floor, as I before said, who ought to have got up here and said anything disparaging of Mr. Calhoun.

Now, what are the reasons that the senator gives for having made that attack? The first is, that the proposi-

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The provisions have been nullified by the power of a conferent majority; and hence, in my view, nothing but nothers majority sield its unarration of powers. The time is not far distant—if not already here—in which what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; it will be not seen as what John Kandolph said will be true; the seen to form Mississippi the seen to form Mississippi seed. The not seen as well as well as the majority here which carries the aggressive policy thirds in both houses willing so to amend the constitution of the seator form Mississippi seed. The not seen as the constitution of the seator form the seator seed that the South had got all that they claimed by his Comparison of the seator form the seator seed that the seator form Mississippi than the seator form Mississippi will be seator form Mississippi will be seator form Mississippi than the seator form Mississippi will be seator form Mississippi than the seator form Mississippi will be seator form Mississippi than the seator form Mississi

Mississippi said a great deal more which I cannot approve. But the Senate, I fear, is as tired of me as it must be of him. Thankful to the Senate for the indulgence it has afforded me, I yield the floor to the senator from

has afforded me, I yield the floor to the senator from Texas.

Mr. FOOTE. The senator from Texas is kind enough to allow me to make a few remarks by way of personal explanation, and I will take advantage of his courtesy, promising that I shall detain the Senate but a few minutes. I must say that the honorable senator from South Carolina dies quite hard, but die he must in this controversy. The gentleman says that I have had a great many personal controversies here, and was about to remark upon them at some length, but for the interposition of the Chair. I shall not refer to his conduct touching this rather delicate point further than to say that I have had some controversies here which I should have been glad to have avoided. I may perchance have a few others, here and elsewhere. Life has been with me marked with obstacles and incitement to energetic action, and I have delighted in struggling to overcome the one and in yielding so far to the other as to be ready to do any duty that time and circumstances might devolve upon me. I am not, I think, particularly in the habit of assaulting any man's feelings unnecessarily and without provocation. Those who assault mine will always meet such requital as I may consider appropriate, with this special understanding, always, that he who takes offence at what I may deem it my duty to say will always, on demanding it, receive such satisfaction as it may be in my power to afford.

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should not resign; and if he had consulted me about it, would have counselled him to stay here, so long as there was danger threatening the South.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair is under the impres

sion that this discussion does not apply to the question.

Mr. FOOTE. Well, I shall not press the matter. I had no idea of bringing forward proof to sustain my allegation. The gentleman ought to be thankful to me for having given him the opportunity which he has enjoyed of explaining a charge which might have operated somewhat detrimentally to his public reputation.

The gentleman also suggested something in regard to the presidential election. He ought not to have mentioned that matter at all. After the nomination of our candidate for the presidency in 1848, the gentleman and myself were both residents of Georgetown, in the District of Columbia. I learned that a short time after these nominations were made, the senator from South Carolina called them in question; and I took occasion, very publicly, but very courteously, to complain of his conduct as not being, in my opinion, sufficiently democratic. And I took him that I had been so informed. He did not deny that such was the fact. He had criticised our candidate, and used, as I understood, very lukewarm terms of commendation—damning him with faint praise, to say the least of it.

Mr. RHETT. I hope the senator will allow me to

mendation—damning min with faint praise, to say the least of it.

Mr. RHETT. I hope the senator will allow me to state my recollection of that matter.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair is very unwilling to interfere; but really senators should know that this mode of discussion cannot be tolerated much longer.

Mr. BUTLER. I hope my colleague will be allowed, in institute to proceed.

in justice, to proceed.

Mr. RHETT. There is not a man upon this floor who does not feel more mortified and more sensitive at the position which the senator and myself occupy in this controversy than I do. But what can I do? I will tell the gentleman what occurred during the presidential camposition which the senator and myself occupy in this controversy than I do. But what can I do? I will tell the gentleman what occurred during the presidential campaign to which he refers. After General Taylor was nominated, and after General Cass had been nominated, I was at a party on the heights of Georgetown, as the gentleman says. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Cartter, and some other good whigs, came to talk about the presidential nominations, when I stated to them that, in my opinion, the democratic nominations would be beaten, and that General Taylor would be elected. Mr. Robinson, I believe, told the senator from Mississippi what I said. The next thing I heard of it was when I went to see the President of the United States (Mr. Polk) one morning. He said to me, "How is this? You said you would support General Cass and the democratic nominations very clearly and very distinctly to me. Now, Mr. Ritchis tells me that Mr. Foors told him that he heard that you were against our nominations, and were going with the whigs." "Why," said I, "sir, I never said so. On the contrary, I shall certainly support the democratic nominations, as I told you before. I shall support Mr. Cass, and South Carolina will support the democratic nominations, as I told you before. I shall support Mr. Cass, and South Carolina will support the Mr. Horse was that I believed we were about to be beaten; and the charge of Mr. Foors was totally ungrounded." I immediately came to the Senate and asked the senator if be had made that declaration. He told me that he drew that interence from what I had said. I told him that the inference was erroneous; and I told him further that General Cass would receive my vote, and that he would receive the vote of the State of South Carolina. Oh, said the senator from Mississippi, that is out of the question; if the senator from what peculiar Taylor Cass specches were apout to supply the control of the case? Certainly, said he, by ten thousand majority. I then said to him, Now, you carry Mississippi, and don't trouble y

If, when General Taylor was going to fight the Mexicans, he had declared that he was about to be beaten, in stead of saying that he was prepared to whip the enemy, no matter what force was brought against him—if General Scott, on any of the battle-fields upon which he won so much glove, had declared. insiter what force was prought against him—if General Scott, on any of the battle-fields upon which he won so much glory, had declared to his men, "Let us advance and meet the enemy, but really I finish we shall be badly whipped," I believe he would have been overcome in every battle. That was my opinion at that time; and I must say that I am not in the habit of hearing members of a political party, honestly zealous and devoted to the interest of that party, confessing in the presence of its adversaries that which would enable them to quote him—as I have heard the gentleman quoted—as asserting the feebleness of the ticket, and the utter impossibility of its success. I have never believed that the bright name of Mr. Cathoun, and his powerfully-expressed and maintained opinions, have received any additional burnishing or solidity from that source.

The gentleman says that he is opposed to these measures of adjustment, because he is in favor of expansion. Let him read the letter of Mr. Burt, of South Carolina, in which he touches this point of expansion as a statesman and a philosopher. In that letter he shows that if South Carolina should secede there would be an end to